

those courageous veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country, and yes Mr. Speaker, on behalf of their family and friends in towns like Esperance.

But not everyone around the country has the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in what the people of Esperance can this Monday. Even though things have changed there, like everywhere else, there is something special that remains an unmistakable part of the town's character that not enough people throughout the country can still boast of today. That something is the distinct smalltown charm that grips the town and the good citizens of Esperance. It can be seen at the church hall and the fire department and across the streets and fields where children play and farmers work.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, that smalltown camaraderie and neighborly hospitality is one thing that thankfully has not changed. But I'll tell you about another thing. It is the pride and values of the citizenry. These are the things that I admire most about the towns like Esperance throughout my congressional district. And on May 27, residents of Esperance will take part in daylong festivities commemorating their heritage. There will be tours of the various historical sites and museum, contests for the children, parades and wagon rides and plenty of time to catch up with friends and neighbors and give thanks for the town and community they share.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the good people of Esperance for their commitment to their home and hard work in organizing this memorial to their heritage. I ask that you and all Members of the House join me in paying tribute to the people of Esperance on the occasion of the town's 150th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE 205TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLAND'S FIRST CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to salute Polish people around the world in recognition of the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first Constitution. At this time I would also commend my good friend and colleague Jack Quinn for his work on House Concurrent Resolution 165 which formalizes this important recognition.

On May 3, 1996, Polish people and Americans of Polish decent celebrated their country's rich history and the establishment of the first liberal constitution in Europe. Preceded only by our own United States Constitution in 1787, this Polish blueprint similarly established three independent branches of government. House Concurrent Resolution 165 underscores that this document was designed to protect Poland's sovereignty and national unity while creating a progressive constitutional monarchy. Further, it recognizes that the constitution represented Central-Eastern Europe's first attempt to end the feudal system and secure freedoms for Polish people.

Mr. Speaker, I have the good fortune of representing the Eighth District of New Jersey, a

unique area diverse in cultural backgrounds. No one can deny the tumultuous history Poland has endured. And, given the changing political and economic landscape of Eastern Europe, we must embrace the spirit of the original Polish Constitution and build upon it.

Today, a new Poland is emerging. It has experienced its first real open elections in several generations and continues to work toward the democratic goals of inclusion in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] and complete inclusion in the Western community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in this important recognition of democratic principles. I commend the people of Poland for their perseverance and commitment to freedom.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 167 which recognizes April 26, 1996, as the 10th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster. This international tragedy is one that deserves recognition for the day and more importantly for the people who experienced it.

As we look back at the 10 years that have passed since this catastrophe, we are reminded of those who were lost during the initial explosion and, more far-reaching, the loss of nearly 500,000 additional lives due to radiation exposure over time. The people of Ukraine have been facing the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster for years. An estimated 3.5 million inhabitants, including 1 million children, of the Chernobyl area were exposed to high levels of radiation. This type of exposure has generated numerous diseases and been responsible for thousands of deaths. Thyroid cancer alone affects one child per 10,000 every year. It is difficult to imagine the pain these people have endured over time.

On top of this physical and emotional anguish, the people of this region have also suffered a severe economic ruin. Their once fertile land is now tagged with the cold label of "exclusion zone" or "permanent control zone." In both instances, the cultivating of crops is completely prohibited. Without the ability to farm crops, these people must attempt to tackle a highly expensive cleanup with a severely diminished income; a difficult task for any group to conquer, particularly under the extreme circumstances.

This is more than the recognition of a day that occurred 10 years ago Mr. Speaker. This anniversary embodies 10 years worth of strength and perseverance the people of Ukraine have displayed. The nature of this prolonged suffering is especially heartwrenching. The accident at Chernobyl is still claiming victims today, over 10 years after the event occurred. The failure of the No. 4 reactor has been attributed to the flawed design, operator mistakes, and cold war isolation.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, now is not a time to blame. Now, we must concentrate our efforts to preventing such a tragedy from occurring again. We must work to increase nuclear

safety awareness and promote greater cooperation between the East And West concerning these matters. We have been given an opportunity to study the onset of cancer and other related diseases and we must not let this window escape unopened.

A WIN-WIN FOR WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity today to enhance the earning potential of millions of working Americans and to provide important incentives for the small businesses who hire them.

I am very supportive of the raise in the minimum wage. This amendment to H.R. 1227, the Employee Commuting Flexibility Act, is a much needed protection for workers who are usually nonunion, have few skills, and little negotiating strength. Also, because the fringe benefits earned by minimum wage workers are usually less than nonminimum wage employees, they get hit twice as hard.

Not only will an increase in the current minimum wage boost thousands of workers and their families above the poverty line, the increase will be a tremendous relief to women. Currently, about 59 percent of minimum wage workers are woman. A raise in the minimum wage will empower these working women with the resources to keep them competitive with their male counterparts.

Often, the downside to minimum wage hikes are a proven loss of jobs for small businesses. The Republicans, however, are increasing the minimum wage in a responsible way that will actually help small business increase jobs. Mr. GOODLING's amendment will allow employers to pay newly hired employees the current minimum wage for the first 90 days of employment and it detaches the minimum wage from employees who receive tips. Further, it exempts employees of small businesses with less than \$500,000 in annual gross sales. Clearly these provisions, in addition to the Small Business Job Protection Act, will ease any burden that may have been placed on small businesses in implementing the increased minimum wage.

The Small Business Job Protection Act will increase, by \$7,500, expensing for small business, simplify small business pension plans, and provide a credit to employers for hiring AFDC recipients, certain veterans, disabled workers as well as high-risk and summer youth employees. Further, this bill will allow workers to deduct, up to \$5,250, employer-paid educational assistance from their taxable income. It will be retroactive to 1995 and help thousands of hard-working Americans in furthering their education, a great benefit to both the employee as well as the employer. This specific provision would have a direct impact on students who attend Wagner College and the College at Staten Island, both of which are in my district. We are now making it easier for small businesses to send their employees to college, which benefits both employers and their employees, who will get much needed assistance in paying for ever-growing tuition costs.

Wage earners in this country do deserve a raise, and this package will give them that raise without costing them their jobs.

SECTION 936 CONCERNS

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that section 936 is phased out in this bill without anything to replace it. Section 936 has played a critical role in economic development in Puerto Rico—creating and keeping good, high quality, well-paying jobs on the island. Many of my constituents in Hartford, CT, have friends and relatives employed by section 936 companies in Puerto Rico.

I am concerned about the impact of the repeal of section 936 on the people on Puerto Rico. Poverty is already very high and good jobs scarce. What will remain for the people of Puerto Rico? I'm afraid that we will only fully realize just how effective it has been when the companies that have enjoyed section 936 begin to leave for other parts of the Caribbean or Ireland. The bill provides some limited protection for the companies doing business in Puerto Rico, but very little protection for the people of Puerto Rico.

It is because of these concerns that I support an economic incentive program such as that proposed by Governor Rosello. Chairman ARCHER has taken the first step by establishing a temporary economic incentive program that would replace section 936 with a wage credit. This should help to spur job creation on the island. By placing the wage credit in a new section and phasing it out over 10 years, this bill will allow Congress to monitor economic development in Puerto Rico.

IN MEMORY OF ADM. J.M. BOORDA

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, May 21, 1996, a memorial service was held for the late Adm. J.M. Boorda at the Washington National Cathedral. Admiral "Mike" Boorda was not only a "sailors' sailor," but an able leader and a friend to so many in all walks of life, including those in uniform, political leaders, and the civilian community. Words are inadequate to express the sense of loss so many of us feel. However, these memorial addresses by Secretary of the Navy, John H. Dalton, and Master Chief PO, John Hagan, were most appropriate and fitting as tributes to this truly outstanding American, Adm. Mike Boorda. He will truly be missed.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, JOHN H. DALTON

I met Mike Boorda in December of '93 on my first visit as Secretary to the Mediterranean and Adriatic. He was Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and Commander of Allied Forces Southern Europe.

We visited a number of ships together going by helicopter spending a couple of hours on each one. We arrived on the USS

Monterey, a guided missile cruiser, late in the day to remain over night. As we toured the ship and we got to the bridge, he told the commanding officer he would like to do a man overboard drill. Naturally, the skipper said okay. Admiral Boorda yelled, "I've got the conn". So, he became the conning officer and he also relieved the helmsman. They tossed the life ring overboard on the starboard side and the drill was underway. "All head full" he barked, and he turned the helm to right full. He was back and forth between the helm and the flying bridge barking orders to the Sailor manning the engine order telegraph. Within just a couple of minutes, the life ring was right along the starboard side, close enough to reach out and pick it up. He said, "Okay, Mr. Secretary, you're next." I laughed and said, "No thank you; I've just seen the master at work." What a great ship handler he was; just one of the reasons he was so admired by Sailors.

Walking around those ships with Mike Boorda was such a great experience. Sailors loved him. He understood them—all of them. Mess cooks, lookouts, from the newly enlisted to the most senior, whether they were chipping paint or swabbing decks . . . he made every one of them feel important, and that what they were doing was a major contribution to that ship's mission and making our navy great and contributing to peace in the world.

Recently, I was interviewing a newly selected admiral for a particular job, and I asked him which flag officer he admired the most. Without hesitation, he said, "Admiral Mike Boorda". I said, "Why?" He said, "I worked for him when he was battle group commander, and he always made people feel so good about themselves. He told us that whenever we were asked to do something, we needed to try hard to find a way to say yes." That was Mike Boorda.

I've seen Mike in lots of different settings. I've seen him counsel young petty officers. I've sat with him in the chiefs' mess—or goat locker—discussing issues with chief petty officers. I've been with him in the wardroom with commissioned officers. I've seen him debate tough issues with other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior Pentagon officials. I've testified with him in front of Congress. I've seen him hosting foreign dignitaries from around the world. I met with him almost daily in my office, his office or some conference room in the Pentagon. I've watched him brief the Secretary of Defense and offer advice to the President of the United States.

In whatever situation I observed Mike, he was always the same person: Well prepared, down to earth, competent, charming, witty, clever, understanding, warm, yet tough.

I've also seen the President take his advice. I remember one particular occasion. We were in Hawaii for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, and the President, CNO, and I were on the CINCPAC barge going across Pearl Harbor to the Arizona Memorial when the President turned to him and said, "Mike, what do you think we should do in Bosnia now?" Mike told the President, and within just a few weeks we were in fact carrying out his recommendations which ended up in having all the parties meet in Dayton for peace talks . . . and giving us a real chance for peace in Bosnia.

John Walter Wayland describes the true gentleman as "the man whose conduct proceeds from good-will and an acute sense of propriety, who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power,

or boast of his own possessions or achievements; and who speaks with frankness, but always with sincerity and sympathy, and whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others rather than of his own; who appears well in any company, and who is at home when he seems to be abroad—a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

That is Mike Boorda.

He was the Sailor's Sailor. There is no greater tribute that could be paid to him. For him to be remembered by that title is the most he could ever hope for.

Mike loved his family. His late father—who he either called or wrote every week for 40 years—his mother, brother and sister. His precious wife, Bettie, his four children and oh those grandchildren. So often, I remember his coming in and saying, "Mr. Secretary, let me show you these new pictures I just got." They were always of one of his grandchildren.

Many times from this lectern have the words of the Prophet Micah been read: "O, man, what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." He tried to do just that.

Mike Boorda was a patriot, a leader, a war-fighter and a peace maker... a planner, a superb tactician and brilliant strategist, a warm, caring sailor who loved those men and women wearing that Navy uniform. That's the Mike Boorda I will always remember. A man with a heart of gold and hands wrapped firmly round the true meaning of our effort to make the world a better, safer place. I am lucky to have known him, and I am thankful for his friendship and support. We have lost someone truly special. God bless his life, his wonderful family and his Navy that he loved so dearly.

REMARKS BY ETCM (SW) JOHN HAGAN

President and Mrs. Clinton, Mrs. Boorda and the family, and to all of you who love the Navy so much, before I lead our responsive reading, allow me to speak from my heart.

I feel as if this is my last "All Hands" call with Admiral Boorda, and he has thrown me the mike one last time.

We are here to honor, to remember, to support one another in mourning, but even in the majesty and splendor of this shrine—in the midst of this illustrious assembly, we could not properly honor or remember if we were not joined by Sailors all around the globe—on flight decks and hangar bays, fantails and focsles, on piers and of course, in every Navy chapel.

Today, and throughout the week, against backdrops as many and varied as the signal flags on a full dress ship, with many voices, tears, and prayers we will together render the proper honors to our beloved CNO, Admiral Mike Boorda.

He was the leader we longed for and looked to; he came from among us and rose so high, always remembering the lonely, insecure, frightened recruit, which all of us are in the beginning, before we discover, as Admiral Boorda did, that the Navy is a family. Our family has lost a man of true worth.

The poet wrote:

"True worth is in *being* not *seeming*.
In doing, each day that goes by,
Some little good—not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.

Our CNO went the poet many times better. He did, each day, not a *little*, but *MUCH* good.

And he worked each day on great things which became realities quicker than any one could believe possible—and all the while he envisioned even greater things to do by and